

1. In a computer system that is connectable to a number of infrastructures, each infrastructure being associated with one or more parameters, a method for selecting characteristics associated with the environment the computer system is connected to, so as to reduce the configuration information that is manually entered, comprising the following:

an act of connecting the computer system to an infrastructure from among the number of infrastructures;

an act of receiving one or more parameters associated with the computer system that were provided by the infrastructure;

an act of combining the one or more parameters to generate an identifier; and

an act of, based on the identifier, selecting characteristics associated with the infrastructure the computer system is connected to.

2. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of connecting the computer system to an infrastructure from among the number of infrastructures comprises the following:

act of connecting a mobile computer system to an infrastructure from among the number of infrastructures.

3. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of connecting the computer system to an infrastructure from among the number of infrastructures comprises the following:

an act of connecting the computer system to a network infrastructure from among a number of network infrastructures.

4. The method as recited in claim 3, wherein the act of connecting the computer system to a network infrastructure from among a number of network infrastructures comprises the following:

an act of connecting the computer system to a network infrastructure from among a number of network infrastructures that are each associated with different operating environments.

5. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of connecting the computer system to an infrastructure from among the number of infrastructures comprises the following:

an act of connecting the computer system to a docking station infrastructure from among a number of docking station infrastructures.

6. The method as recited in claim 5, wherein the act of connecting the computer system to a docking station infrastructure from among a number of docking station infrastructures comprises the following:

act of connecting the computer system to a docking station infrastructure from among a number of docking station infrastructures that are each associated with different operating environments.

7. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of connecting the computer system to an infrastructure from among the number of infrastructures comprises the following:

connecting the computer system to a combined infrastructure.

8. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of receiving one or more parameters associated with the computer system that were provided by the infrastructure comprises the following:

an act of receiving one or more parameters associated with the computer system that were provided by a network infrastructure.

9. The method as recited in claim 8, wherein act of receiving one or more parameters associated with the computer system that were provided by a network infrastructure comprises the following:

an act of receiving one or more parameters associated with communication techniques utilized by the network infrastructure.

10. The method as recited in claim 9, wherein the act of receiving one or more parameters associated with communication techniques utilized by the network infrastructure comprises the following:

an act of receiving a network address that was provided by the network infrastructure.

11. The method as recited in claim 9, wherein the act of receiving one or more parameters associated with communication techniques utilized by the network infrastructure comprises the following:

an act of receiving a subnet mask that was provided by the network infrastructure.

12. The method as recited in claim 9, wherein the act of receiving one or more parameters associated with communication techniques utilized by the network infrastructure comprises the following:

an act of receiving one or more parameters indicative of the network infrastructure utilizing a proxy.

13. The method as recited in claim 9, wherein the network infrastructure utilizes a virtual private network.

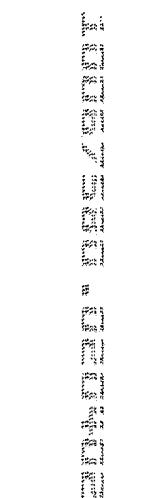
14. The method as recited in claim 9, wherein the act of receiving one or more parameters associated with the computer system that were provided by the infrastructure comprises the following:

an act of receiving one or more parameters associated with the computer system that were provided by a docking station infrastructure.

15. The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the act of receiving one or more parameters associated with the computer system that were provided by a docking station infrastructure comprises the following:

an act of receiving one or more parameters associated with peripherals that are attached to the docking station infrastructure.

16. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of receiving one or more parameters associated with the computer system that were provided by the infrastructure comprises the following:



an act of receiving one or more parameters associated with the computer system that were provided by a first infrastructure and will be used to select characteristics associated with a second infrastructure.

17. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of receiving one or more parameters associated with the computer system that were provided by the infrastructure comprises the following:

an act of receiving one or more parameters associated with the computer system that were provided by the computer system.

18. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of receiving one or more parameters associated with the computer system that were provided by the infrastructure comprises the following:

an act of receiving one or more parameters from a combined infrastructure.

19. The method recited in claim 1, wherein the act of combining the one or more parameters to generate an identifier comprises the following:

an act of combining the one or more parameters that where provided by a network infrastructure to generate an identifier.

20. The method recited in claim 19, wherein the act of combining the one or more parameters that where provided by a network infrastructure to generate an identifier comprises the following:

an act of combining one or more parameters associated with communication techniques that are utilized by the infrastructure.

21. The method recited in claim 20, wherein the act of combining the one or more parameters associated with communication techniques that are utilized by the infrastructure comprises the following:

an act of performing a logical AND operation on a network address and a subnet mask to generate a subnet address that is representative of a network location.

22. The method recited in claim 1, wherein the act of, based on the identifier, selecting characteristics associated with the infrastructure the computer system is connected to comprises the following:

an act of selecting characteristics associated with the infrastructure the computer system is connected to that cause the computer system to utilize a proxy.

23. The method recited in claim 1, wherein the act of, based on the identifier, selecting characteristics associated with the infrastructure the computer system is connected to comprises the following:

an act of selecting characteristics associated with the infrastructure the computer system is connected to that cause the computer system to utilize a virtual private network.

24. The method recited in claim 1, wherein the act of, based on the identifier, selecting characteristics associated with the infrastructure the computer system is connected to comprises the following:

an act of selecting characteristics associated with a network location the computer system connected to.

25. The method recited in claim 1, wherein the act of, based on the identifier, selecting characteristics associated with the infrastructure the computer system is connected to comprises the following:

an act of selecting characteristics associated with a docking station the computer system connected to.

26. The method recited in claim 1, wherein the act of, based on the identifier, selecting characteristics associated with the infrastructure the computer system is connected to comprises the following:

an act of selecting characteristics associated with the infrastructure from a system registry.

27. The method recited in claim 1, wherein the act of, based on the identifier, selecting characteristics associated with the infrastructure the computer system is connected to comprises the following:

an act of selecting characteristics associated with the infrastructure by utilizing information that was manually entered by a user.

28. The method recited in claim 1, wherein the act of, based on the identifier, selecting characteristics associated with the infrastructure the computer system is connected to comprises the following:

an act of, based on the identifier, selecting characteristics associated with a combined infrastructure the computer system is connected to.

29. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

an act of utilizing the selected characteristics to modify the configuration of the computer system.

30. The method as recited in claim 29, wherein the act of utilizing the selected characteristics to modify the configuration of the computer system comprises the following:

an act of utilizing the selected characteristics to modify the configuration of the computer system to operate in the environment.

31. The method as recited in claim 30, wherein the act of utilizing the selected characteristics to modify the configuration of the computer system to operate in the environment comprises the following:

an act of utilizing the selected characteristics to modify the configuration of the computer system to operate on a computer network.

32. In a computer system that is connectable to a number of infrastructures, each infrastructure being associated with one or more parameters, a method for selecting characteristics associated with the environment the computer system is connected to, so as to reduce the configuration information that is manually entered, comprising the following:

a step for accessing one or more parameters associated with a computer system so as to provide parameters for properly configuring the computer system to operate in an infrastructure ;

an act of combining the one or more parameters to generate an identifier; and

an act of, based on the identifier, selecting characteristics associated with the infrastructure the computer system is connected to.

33. The method as recited in claim 32, wherein the step for accessing one or more parameters associated with a computer system comprises the following:

an act of accessing one or more parameters from a computer network.

34. The method as recited in claim 32, wherein the step for accessing one or more parameters associated with a computer system comprises the following:

an act of accessing one or more parameters from a docking station.

35. The method as recited in claim 32, wherein the step for accessing one or more parameters associated with a computer system comprises the following:

an act of accessing one or more parameters from a system registry.

36. The method as recited in claim 32, wherein the step for accessing one or more parameters associated with a computer system comprises the following:

an act of accessing one or more parameters provided modules included in the computer system that may be utilized by the computer system to change the configuration of the computer system.

37. In a computer system that is connectable to a number of infrastructures, each infrastructure being associated with one or more parameters, a method for selecting characteristics associated with the environment the computer system is connected to, so as to reduce the configuration information that is manually entered, comprising the following comprising:

an act of connecting the computer system to an infrastructure from among the number of infrastructures;

an act of receiving one or more parameters associated with the computer system that were provided by the infrastructure; and

a step for changing the configuration of the computer system based on the one or more parameters so as to enable the computer system to operate in the infrastructure associated with the provided parameters.

38. The method as recited in claim 37, wherein the step for changing the configuration of the computer system based on the one or more parameters comprises the following:

an act of configuring the computer system to operate with a computer network.

39. The method as recited in claim 37, wherein the step for changing the configuration of the computer system based on the one or more parameters comprises the following:

an act of configuring the computer system to operate with a docking station.

40. The method as recited in claim 37, wherein the step for changing the configuration of the computer system based on the one or more parameters comprises the following:

an act of configuring the computer system to operate with the computer system.

41. The method as recited in claim 37, wherein the step for changing the configuration of the computer system based on the one or more parameters comprises the following:

an act of configuring the computer system based on one parameter.

42. A computer program product for use in a computer system that is connectable to a number of infrastructures, each infrastructure being associated with one or more parameters, the computer program product for implementing a method for selecting characteristics associated with the environment the computer system is connected to, so as to reduce the configuration information that is manually entered, the computer program product comprising:

one or more computer-readable media carrying computer-executable instructions, that when executed at the computer system, cause the computer system to perform the method, including:

connecting the computer system to an infrastructure from among the number of infrastructures;

receiving one or more parameters associated with the computer system that were provided by the infrastructure;

combining the one or more parameters to generate an identifier; and selecting characteristics associated with the infrastructure the computer system is connected to.

43. The computer program product as recited claim 42, wherein the one or more computer-readable media are physical storage media.

44. The computer program product as recited claim 42, wherein the one or more computer-readable media include system memory.